

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed 01 October 2007. Claims 1-3 and 5-12 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 9 and 11 have been amended, and claim 5 has been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-3 and 6 to 12 are now pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 12:

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by JP2000/283512.

Claims 2, 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of JP2000/283512 in combination with Varaprasad (US2002/0041443).

In response to these rejections, claim 1 has been amended to specify the details of the claimed dewpoint cooler in terms of the first and second medium circuits; the heat conducting partition; and the coating provided on the partition as previously specified in claim 5 (now cancelled). The features of the inorganic anti-microbial catalyst and the source of ultraviolet radiation are detailed in the last three lines of amended claim 1. The previous wording of claim 1 has been deleted to avoid confusingly repetitive language.

Such amendments have been made in line with the Examiner's indication under the title "Allowed Subject Matter" that the subject matter of previous claim 5 was allowable. The remaining difference between currently amended claim 1 and previous claim 5 is the specification of an inorganic anti-microbial catalyst rather than the preferred example of titanium dioxide.

Applicants respectfully submit that this difference between the currently amended claim 1 and previously accepted claim 5 does not alter the allowability of the claims. Rather claim 1 now clearly relates to a dewpoint cooler as reflected by physical features specified in claim 1. The cited prior art, JP2000/283512 does not disclose a dewpoint cooler as specified in claim 1 so that the citation does not anticipate claim 1.

Further since JP2000/283512 relates to humidifiers it does not relate to the field of the invention, which is that of dewpoint coolers and cannot therefore lead the skilled person to the claimed invention.

Claims 2, 3 and 6 to 12 depend from claim 1 and are thus patentable on that basis.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request entry and allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-12 by the Examiner.

In addition to the above, and in relation to WO03/004422 (OZONE MANUFACTURING), newly cited in the IDS of today's date, it is noted that this document does not disclose the features of claim 1. In particular it does not disclose: a dew-point cooler, comprising a first medium circuit and a second medium circuit, thermally coupled to the first medium circuit by a partition that is at least partially heat conducting; a hydrophilic coating; a humidification unit for humidifying the secondary medium by evaporation of water from the coating; an inorganic anti-microbial catalyst; or an ultraviolet source for irradiating the inorganic anti-microbial catalyst.

Any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application is hereby requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to **Deposit Account No. 08-3038**, referencing the docket number shown above.

Prior to issuance of a final rejection the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by email at owend@howrey.com to arrange a telephone interview to resolve any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date:

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